Case 2793

METOPIINAE Foerster, 1868 (Insecta, Hymenoptera), METOPIINI Raffray, 1904 (Insecta, Coleoptera), and METOPIINI Townsend, 1908 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed removal of homonymy

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to avoid homonymous family-group names in three orders of Insecta. It is proposed that the complete generic names of *Metopias* Gory, 1832 and *Metopia* Meigen, 1803 be adopted as the stems for the corresponding family-group names, giving METOPIASINI Raffray, 1904 (Coleoptera) and METOPIAINI Townsend, 1908 (Diptera). The subfamily name METOPIINAE Foerster, 1868 (Hymenoptera) based on *Metopius* Panzer, 1806 would remain unchanged.

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1. Family-group names based on the stem METOPI- are in use in three orders of Insecta: METOPIINAE Foerster, 1868 (Hymenoptera, ICHNEUMONIDAE), METOPIINI Raffray, 1904 (Coleoptera, PSELAPHIDAE) and METOPIINI Townsend, 1908 (Diptera, SARCOPHAGIDAE). All three names are cited by Handlirsch (1925, p. 578 (Coleoptera), p. 738 (Hymenoptera), p. 1025 (Diptera)), but the homonymy has never been confronted. The three names are based on non-homonymous generic names having identical stems. In accordance with Article 55b of the Code this case is referred to the Commission.

2. The name 'Metopioidae' was first used by Foerster (1868, pp. 142, 159) for a family of ichneumons, based on *Metopius* Panzer, 1806 (p. 78). This name is in general use as the subfamily METOPIINAE. Some recent uses in major works are: Townes & Townes (1959, p. 3), Townes (1971, p. 89), Fitton & Gauld (1976, p. 254), Krombein et al. (1979, p. 547) and Fitton (1984, p. 353). The METOPIINAE are a world-wide group of over 500 species, all parasitic on Lepidoptera (Townes & Townes, 1959; Fitton, 1984). The type species of *Metopius*, *Sphex vespoides* Scopoli, 1763 (p. 296), was designated by Viereck (1912, p. 176).

3. The name METOPIINI Raffray (1904, p. 106), based on *Metopias* Gory, 1832 (pl. 42; type species by monotypy *Metopias curculionoides* Gory, 1832), was proposed for a tribe of PSELAPHIDAE (Coleoptera). This name has been in general use, including the following works: Raffray (1908, p. 186; 1911, p. 76), Park (1942, p. 204; 1951, pp. 61, 62; 1952, pp. 13, 14), Comellini (1983, p. 437) and Newton & Chandler (1989, p. 41). Jeannel (1949, p. 42; 1955, p. 8) used the spelling METOPIASINI without explanation, attributing the name to Raffray. *Metopias* has been used from the start as masculine.

As a masculine Greek noun ending in *-as* it has the stem METOPI- (Code, p. 209, Appendix D) so Jeannel's spelling is incorrect, although we recommend its adoption (see below). The METOPIINI Raffray are a small Neotropical group of about 40 species of no known economic importance.

4. The name METOPIINI was proposed by Townsend (1908, p. 64) for a tribe of Diptera, implicitly based on *Metopia* Meigen, 1803 (p. 280). This name has been commonly used for a tribe of SARCOPHAGIDAE, subfamily MILTOGRAMMATINAE, for instance by Rohdendorf (1935, p. 95; 1967, p. 66), Lopes et al. (1977, p. 560), Verves (1986, p. 88; 1989, p. 117) and Lopes (1989, p. 723), although other authors have avoided any subdivisions of the MILTOGRAMMATINAE (e.g. Downes, 1965, p. 936; Shewell, 1987, p. 1185 and Pape 1987, p. 27). The sarcophagid METOPIINI are widespread in all zoogeographical regions but with greatest diversity in the Palearctic. The biology of the more than 100 species is poorly known, but several are kleptoparasites in nests of sphecid wasps and solitary bees (Ferrar, 1987). The type species of *Metopia* is by monotypy *Musca leucocephala* 'Panzer' (i.e. Rossi, 1790, p. 306), a senior subjective synonym of *Tachina argyrocephala* Meigen, 1824 (p. 372; see Stein, 1900, p. 132) but a junior primary homonym of *Musca leucocephala* de Villers, 1789. Brauer (1893, p. 503) invalidly gave *T. argyrocephala* as the type species.

5. Of the three homonymous family-group names discussed above, METOPIINAE Foerster, 1868 in the Hymenoptera is the oldest, has been in the most widespread use, and applies to the largest and most highly-ranked group. It therefore seems advisable to allow this name to stand as valid.

6. METOPIINI Raffray, 1904 in the Coleoptera is also in general use and has no available synonyms (Newton & Chandler, 1989). In our opinion the best course would be to emend the stem of the type genus to remove the homonymy with METOPIINAE Foerster and establish a family-group name recognizably based on *Metopias*.

7. METOPIINI Townsend, 1908 in the Diptera has been divided into several subtribes (Rohdendorf, 1967, p. 66; Verves, 1989, p. 177); the next oldest name among these could be used as a replacement tribal name. If, in accordance with Verves's (1989) concept, a subtribe is recognized with only *Metopia* included, it would still need a name. In our opinion, the best course again would be to emend the stem of the type genus to remove the homonymy with METOPIINAE Foerster and establish a family-group name clearly based on *Metopia*.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:
  (a) to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 the stem of the generic name *Metopia* Meigen, 1803 is METOPIA-;
  (b) to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 the stem of the generic name *Metopias* Gory, 1832 is METOPIAS-;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  (a) *Metopia* Meigen, 1803 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Musca leucocephala* Rossi, 1790 (a senior subjective synonym of *Tachina argyrocephala* Meigen, 1824 but a junior primary homonym of *Musca leucocephala* de Villers, 1789);
  (b) *Metopias* Gory, 1832 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Metopias curculionoides* Gory, 1832;

(c) *Metopius* Panzer, 1806 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Viereck (1912) *Sphex vespoides* Scopoli, 1763;

(3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
(a) *argyrocephala* Meigen, 1824, as published in the binomen *Tachina argyrocephala* (valid subjective synonym of the specific name of *Musca leucocephala* Rossi, 1790, the type species of *Metopia* Meigen, 1803);
(b) *curculionoides* Gory, 1832, as published in the binomen *Metopias curculionoides* (specific name of the type species of *Metopias* Gory, 1832);
(c) *vespoides* Scopoli, 1763, as published in the binomen *Sphex vespoides* (specific name of the type species of *Metopius* Panzer, 1806);

(4) to place the following names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
(a) METOPIAINI Townsend, 1908, type genus *Metopia* Meigen, 1803 (spelling emended in (1)(a) above) (Insecta, Diptera);
(b) METOPIASINI Raffray, 1904, type genus *Metopias* Gory, 1832 (spelling emended in (1)(b) above) (Insecta, Coleoptera);
(c) METOPIINAE Foerster, 1868, type genus *Metopius* Panzer, 1806 (Insecta, Hymenoptera);

(5) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:
(a) METOPIINI Townsend, 1908 (spelling emended to METOPIAINI in (1)(a) above);
(b) METOPIINI Raffray, 1904 (spelling emended to METOPIASINI in (1)(b) above).

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